

# DuPont - Waynesboro Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

## *Draft Restoration Plan / Environmental Assessment*



### **Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)**

When hazardous substances enter the environment, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources can be injured. The Department of the Interior, along with State, Tribal and other Federal partners, act as “trustees” for these resources on behalf of the American people. Trustees seek to identify the injured natural resources and determine the extent of the injuries. They are authorized to pursue claims against responsible parties for monetary damages based on the injuries. The Trustees are the Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**NRDAR activities are distinct from cleanup activities.**

*The goal of the NRDAR process is to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources using the recovered monetary damages.*

### **Injured Natural Resources**

Trustees and DuPont cooperatively assessed potential impacts from the released mercury to natural resources including mussels, fish, reptiles, amphibians, bats, songbirds, waterfowl, fish-eating birds, and mammals. Mercury releases impacted aquatic habitat and associated floodplain or upland habitat in the City of Waynesboro and along over 100 miles of the South River and South Fork Shenandoah River. Due to the fish consumption advisory, there is also injury to recreational fishing.

### **The Proposed Settlement and Preferred Restoration Alternative**

The proposed settlement includes over \$42 million for restoration project implementation, and renovations to the Front Royal Fish Hatchery funded directly by DuPont.

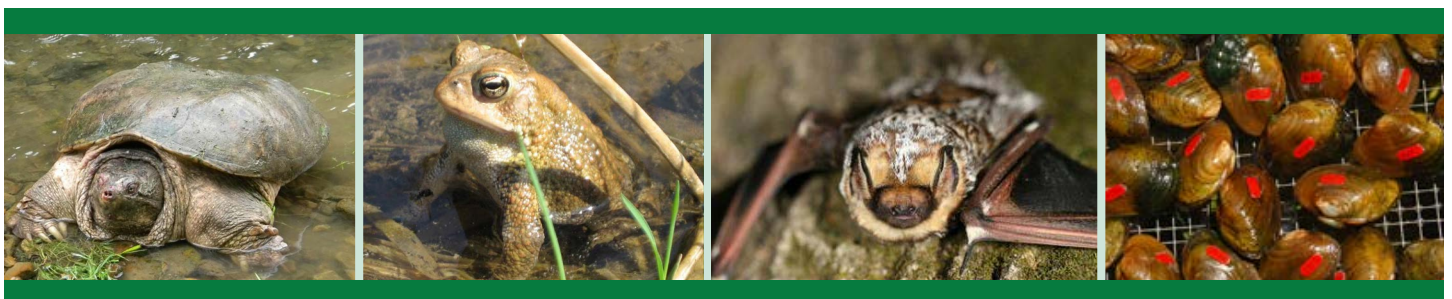
### **Federal law requires that settlement funds must be used specifically to compensate for natural resource injuries from DuPont’s mercury releases, not for impacts to human health or the local economy.**

Trustees began meeting with state agencies and other stakeholders as early as 2008 to seek restoration ideas. The resulting draft restoration plan and environmental assessment proposes the following preferred restoration efforts:

- \$2.5 million for recreational fishing access point creation or improvement to provide more recreational fishing opportunities
- \$19 million for voluntary land protection, property acquisition, and recreational and wildlife enhancements to improve or protect wildlife habitat
- \$10 million to improve water quality and fish habitat through agricultural and urban Best Management Practices
- \$4 million for mussel propagation and restoration to the South River and South Fork Shenandoah River or their tributaries
- \$2.5 million for migratory songbird habitat restoration and protection
- DuPont-funded Front Royal Fish Hatchery renovations to produce more smallmouth bass and increase fishing trips



Mercury, a toxin that causes adverse effects in fish and wildlife, was used at the former DuPont facility in Waynesboro, VA between 1929 and 1950. Mercury releases from the facility continue to affect fish and wildlife that use the South River and South Fork Shenandoah River. A fish consumption ban, then advisory, was enacted in 1977 and 1979 respectively, and continues today.



## Restoration Criteria

Trustees will use specific evaluation criteria when reviewing restoration projects. Some examples are below, with a complete list provided in the draft restoration plan. Projects will be identified by the Trustees through coordination with state natural resource agencies. Instructions on how to submit project ideas will be incorporated into the final restoration plan and on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Virginia Field Office website at:

[https://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/environmentalcontaminants/dupont\\_waynesboro.html](https://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/environmentalcontaminants/dupont_waynesboro.html)

- Connection to injured resources
- Technical and regulatory feasibility
- Cost effective and leverage potential
- Likelihood of success and sustainability
- Benefits multiple natural resources

## Next Steps

The Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment has been released for a public comment period which closes on January 30, 2017. Trustees will consider comments received and will finalize the Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment in 2017.

